

SPEECH

JOHN AND KATERINI'S WEDDING 19 JANUARY 2002

Panaxiolyotate Pater Nikodimos

Παναχιολογιοτατε Πατερ Νικοδιμος

Aidesimotate Pater Mina - Presvitera

Αιδεσιμοτατε Πατερ Μινα - Πρεσβιτερα

Costa Athenasi
First and foremost, on behalf of the families of, Michalopoulos / Stathoulis, I wish to thank you for officiating and Blessing the wedding of John and Katerini.

Ευχοχιοτατε

Ευχοχιοτατε
συνδεεσθε
Πατερ Μινα, you have officiated at both the weddings of Costa and Fani, Arthur and Tassy. You have also baptized some of our children and grandchildren. You indeed go back a long way with our families. May the Lord allow us to see you Baptise John and Katerini's first child.

Ο Παπαχρηστος το θεο να μας χαρισι να βαπτισι το ποστο παιδι του

Without the Church's Blessings a Greek wedding would lack a solid foundation and we would not have the creation of an Hellenic Orthodox family as we Hellenes know family structures.

Ευχοχιοτατε

εδωχια

αθροετιτο

Our Lord's Blessing and the Church's Guidance are very material.

I thank you - Father's of our Church, for joining us this evening in the celebrations of this wonderful occasion – this is much appreciated .

Εγγονοί

Our two beloved children, John and Katerini, are from Hellenic Orthodox homes, who treasure their Hellenic upbringing of which our Church's teachings form the basic foundation together with all the *ηθη* and *εθημα* that go with Hellenism. John and Katerini have been given all the basics that are needed, to start their new life – Greek Orthodox guidance, correct upbringing, an education, paternal guidance – in short the product of a *πατριαχικι εικογεννια*.

All this has been made possible by the sacrifices of their understanding parents Costa, Fani, Arthur and Tassy.

To our wonderful friends and relatives - on behalf of the families of Costa, Fani, Arthur and Tassy, I extend a sincere welcome. Thank you for joining us and in sharing this happy occasion.

I am certain we will all make this a memorable evening. Let the Spirits move freely among you.

(Joke)

WASH; DUST; IRON; COOK; WORK.

You undoubtedly all know that our base is **Kacouri** in Greece and those of us here this evening from Kacouri, know what this means to all of us.



Tell them about Kacouri – No ladies in καφενια

I must mention at the outset, I do not know whether this is by good fortune or by careful planning on the part of Katerini, or the diplomatic persuasion of John, that all the key players at this wedding, are Κακούρει.

Our Photographers - John and George Kotsovos, our Disco Player - Costa Koushiakis,
the Κουμπάρο - John's first cousin, the Master of Ceremonies – John Yianniosis.

Naturally the father and I, the Novo, are also from Kacouri – and now we make Katerini a Κακούρεισα – just have we have made Tassy and Olga.

Don't you think we men from Kacouri have made a good job of our wives and don't you think women folk from Kacouri have made a good job of their husbands – you can't get better.

(REFER TO STAVRO)

I believe that not only will the Stathoulis clan benefit by Katerini coming into the family, but the entire Kacoureiko fold (περιβαλον) will be enriched.

My sincere wish is that all the unmarried girls here this evening, have the good fortune of finding a Κακούρειο to marry and that the boys get Κακούρεισες.

Costa, Fani, Arthur and Tassy, we know that you have brought up two wonderful children in John and Katerini. All parents are proud of their children, but in this instance I feel there is something special and I in particular, as the Godfather, am very proud and indeed very thrilled that my son John is the Bestman.

John and Katerini will indeed make not only their parent happy, but all of us.

Costa and Fani have gained another son who I am certain will enrich their family, whilst on the other hand, not only have Arthur and Tassy gained a daughter, but it is the first girl in their home.

I have no doubt that Tassy will have tremendous moral support from Katerini, because till now, with four men or 'hooligans', pushing Tassy around all the time, she really needs a bit of support.

Tassy, you have done a wonderful job in coping with all four of them and I have no doubt that the tenderness, elegance of Katerini is going to help and refine the rough edges of the boys.

Business
I must mention that a very strong association has also developed between Ari - Katerini's brother and George - John's brother, in that they both wish to solve a problem that I know has intrigued my friends and I for many years. That problem is, why is it that we hate to see a bottle full of whisky and why do we get upset when we see the whisky bottle empty. Ari and George, I hope both of you succeed in solving a problem that many of us have not been able to till now. If you fail, I am certain that George's brother Pietie will be able to solve the problem for you - Pietie, I think you must take control.

All I can say is that - "good friendships are established between drinking buddies".

As we say in Greek - to you, Pietie, Ari, George - ΚΕ ΣΤΑ ΔΙΚΑ ΣΑΣ.

/5.....

Παππου Peter and Γιαγια Anne Kalivitis, it is indeed a happy occasion to see your first grandson being married. May the Good Lord in time Bless you both with great-grandchildren.

I pray that John and Katerini will be Blessed with health and happiness.

I pray that they develop a strong, mutual understanding – a silent understanding between them, so that they can face the challenges of life and let their happiness and success rub off on all who will be associated with them.

John, Katerini - let humility guide you throughout your life, let integrity be one of your mainstays, let kindness to one another and your fellow beings be your goal, but above all, your Faith in Our Lord must at all times be retained – this will enrich both of you and that of your friends and relatives.

It is your life, your own structure, your own destiny. May Our Good Lord grant what you ask for to achieve your goals.

Friends, together I ask you all to once again raise your glasses and to toast the families of Costa and Fani Michalopoulos and Arthur and Tassy Stathoulis, *Παππου and Γιαγια*.